



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Advance Release to the SUNDAY PAPERS OF OCTOBER 7, 1945

As a result of the most extensive experiment of its kind since the release of DDT for civilian use, the fishing port of Crisfield, Md., now has fewer flies than at any time in the memory of its oldest inhabitants, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior reported today.

As soon as DDT became available the Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the Department of Agriculture, began an investigation to devise safe and effective methods of using the insecticide in the fishery industries. Crisfield, with a population of 3,800, was selected for the initial tests because it is one of the largest seafood producing centers on Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. Leslie A. Sandholzer of the Fish and Wildlife Service was detailed to initiate the experiments and later A. W. Lindquist of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and an authority on DDT was also assigned to the project.

Using a crew of German prisoners of war equipped with pressure sprayers, every fishery establishment in Crisfield was given a residual treatment of DDT on August 31, the report states. As a result the fly population inside the plants was reduced by from 95 to 99 per cent. Since then, the continuing insecticidal activity of the DDT has kept the number of flies at the same low level obtained immediately after spraying.

In addition all outside toilets in the city, where the flies were most numerous, were sprayed and it has been possible to maintain a reduction of the fly population in the entire city of 75 per cent or more, according to the report. Since the treatment there has also been a marked reduction in the number of mosquitoes in Crisfield.

On September 25, arrangements were made with Sol Walpow, of the New York City United Retail Fish Dealer's Association, to treat several retail fish stores, using DDT aerosol bombs. The complete elimination of flies in each establishment treated was accomplished within thirty minutes. The actual time required for spraying was not more than 30 seconds in any plant and it was not necessary to stop normal selling operations during the treatment.

The use of the aerosol bomb provides only temporary relief from flies since no DDT is actually deposited on places where flies rest. A combined use of residual spraying and aerosol bomb treatments should result in the complete elimination of flies in food stores where screen doors are kept in good repair and are used, the report states.

On September 26, through the cooperation of Frank Anderson, of the Fishery Council, a demonstration of methods of applying DDT in fishery establishments was made at the Fulton Street Fish Market in New York. The plants used for the demonstration were those of William Bruce, Jim Walch and Teddy's Fish Market. The demonstration was observed by plant operators, officials of the New York City Department of Markets, Department of Sanitation and Department of Health. It is estimated that about fifty persons attended the demonstration.

A survey has been made of the main fishery areas of northeastern United States with a view of determining the best methods of applying DDT. Dr. Sandholzer and Mr. Lindquist have prepared a preliminary report on their work which will be released shortly, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported.

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*Rec'd 10-8-45*